



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHP TO BE OUT IN FORCE DURING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Memorial Day traditionally signifies the beginning of the summer travel season. Many Californians will celebrate this holiday with picnics, barbecues and road trips. Before you head out for the long weekend, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) reminds all motorists to drive safely, and buckle up.

Memorial Day weekend is a Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) for the CHP, every available officer will be out on the road during this time period looking for motorists who are a danger to themselves or others on the state's roadways. The Memorial Day holiday reporting period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, May 28 and runs through 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 31.

"Insist everyone is properly restrained with a seat belt or a child safety seat before starting your engine," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "Those two seconds could save your life or the life of someone you love."

During last year's MEP, 45 people were killed on California's roadways. In addition, CHP officers made 1,465 arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) during the 78-hour reporting period. According to statistics, nearly half of the vehicle occupants killed within CHP jurisdiction were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. To combat the problem of improperly restrained passengers, all CHP areas will be participating again this year in the national Click-It or Ticket Campaign May 24 through June 6.

"Our officers have seen first hand how effective using seatbelts and child safety seats are in reducing injuries and saving lives of those involved in motor vehicle collisions," stated Commissioner Farrow. "It's simple. Buckle up. Watch your speed and never drink and drive."

In an effort to keep impaired drivers off the road, the CHP is encouraging motorists to be a part of the team: Report drunk drivers, call 9-1-1. When calling be sure to note the location and direction the suspected drunken driver is traveling. A color, make and model of car are also helpful.

This weekend is also an Operation Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE) holiday. Operation CARE is a joint program of the nation's highway patrols that places special safety emphasis on interstate highways during holiday periods. CARE highways in California include Interstates 80, 40, 15 and 5.

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